

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

A new title has been presented, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 12, 19, 25, and 36 being independent. Claims 1-24 have been withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, Claims 25-48 are presented for consideration on their merits, with Claims 25 and 36 being the independent claims to be examined.

Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 36, 39, 40, and 42 have been amended. In particular, Claims 29, 36, 39, 40, and 42 have been amended in view of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph (discussed further below), and Claims 25, 26, 30, and 36 have been amended to more clearly recite some of the features that distinguish the presently claimed invention from the cited art. No new matter has been added.

Claims 29, 36, 39, 40, and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the Examiner deemed certain terms to lack sufficient antecedent basis. Those claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments, and Applicant believes the objections have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection are requested.

Claims 25-27, 30, and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,515,697 (Yamada et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 25, the present invention includes the features of transferring information indicating an amount of image data to an external apparatus, receiving from the external apparatus a response signal indicating whether the external apparatus admits the transmission of the image data in accordance with the information of the data amount and a free storage capacity in the external apparatus, and controlling the

transmission of the image data in accordance with response signal. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Yamada et al. discloses a digital camera to which an external memory such as a memory card is detachable. However, that patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of transmitting a signal indicating an amount of image data to the external apparatus, receiving a response signal indicating whether the external apparatus admits the transmission of the image data, and controlling transmission of the image data in accordance with the response signal.

The other cited art fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Yamada et al. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is patentable over the art of record. The claims dependent from Claim 25 are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claims 36-38, 41, and 44-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Yamada et al. considered in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,648,816 (Wakui). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 36, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of receiving a transfer request including information indicating an amount of image data, from an external apparatus, detecting a free storage capacity, and transmitting to the external apparatus a signal to indicate whether the external apparatus is admitted to transmit the image data. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

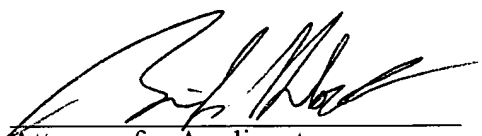
As discussed above, Yamada et al. discloses a digital camera to which an external memory can be attached. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 36. Applicant submits that neither Wakui nor the other art of record remedies these deficiencies.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 36 is patentable over the art of record. The claims depending from Claim 36 are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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